



March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

I write to you in support of HF1296, introduced by Representative Reyer. This bill would make grants and forgivable loans available to Critical Access Dental (CAD) providers for various dental infrastructure projects.

CAD providers see a high volume of patients enrolled in Minnesota's Health Care Programs (MHCP), Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare. To qualify as a CAD provider, a dentist must work in a nonprofit setting, a federal qualified health setting, a city or county owned hospital-based setting, or be affiliated with an oral health or dental educational program. Private practice dentists can also qualify as a CAD provider if a percentage of annual patient encounters consist of patients who are uninsured or are enrolled in MHCP.

Given the fact that CAD providers treat many of Minnesota's most vulnerable residents, access to convenient and high-quality dental care is paramount. To do so, further investment is needed for infrastructure projects that will be utilized by those most in need.

I urge you to support HF1296 and support Minnesota's CAD providers.

Should you have any questions, please contact the MDA's Government Affairs Manager Dan Murphy at dmurphy@mndental.org or 612-767-4255.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmelo Cinqueonce".

Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA
Executive Director

The Minnesota Dental Association is a statewide professional membership organization representing Minnesota-licensed dentists and dental students, with a membership of over 3,000 dentists.